

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release



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Schauer Announces \$150K for Early Childhood Development

LANSING— Sen. Mark Schauer today announced that Jackson will receive \$150,000 for early childhood development programs, creating more resources to prepare children for school through pre-kindergarten health and education programs.

“Investing in early childhood development programs helps level the playing field for kids, preparing them for school and, in turn, success beyond,” said Schauer. “This is just the type of investment that we need to ensure prosperity in our state for years to come.”

The grant gives Jackson County the funding to create what is called a Great Start Collaborative. The Great Start Collaborative is geared toward connecting schools, business, communities, and government, civic, and faith-based organizations to help encourage long-term development of early childhood programs. Intermediate School Districts serve as the liaison for the grants, but resources extend into the community.

The Great Start Collaborative project is funded through the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) a non-profit created by Governor Granholm charged with the task of focusing local efforts on early learning and childhood development. ECIC awarded a total \$1.2 million among 14 communities. More grants are expected as more funding becomes available.

“I have always made early childhood development one of my top priorities,” said Schauer. “This is a great opportunity for Jackson and the surrounding area. I am eager to see what new relationships and infrastructure develop as a result of this grant.”

Sen. Schauer has long been a supporter of early childhood development programs. Until recently, he served as co-chair of the Michigan’s Children Trust Fund, and in the Senate, he has successfully lobbied for substantial grants for before and after school programs to his district. Before entering the Legislature, he developed an extraordinary amount of experience in connecting services for children and families. Sen. Schauer currently serves on the board of directors for Kids “N Stuff in Albion.

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Mark Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.